



# Source Reduction Roundup



## Objective

To teach students the various ways to create less waste in the first place.



## Activity Description

Students form teams and work together to answer questions on source reduction.



## Materials Needed

- Source Reduction Questions and Answers sheet
- Chalk board or flip chart
- Clock or timer



## Key Vocabulary Words

Reuse  
Source reduction  
Disposable  
Pollution  
Natural resources



## Duration

1 hour



## Skills Used

Communication  
Observation/classification



## Activity

**Step 1:** Discuss source reduction and reuse and how it relates to a clean and healthy environment. Explain what individuals can do to make a difference in the amount of waste that is created. (Refer to the Teacher Fact Sheets titled *Source Reduction* on page 133 and *Products* on page 25 for background information.)

**Step 2:** Divide the class into two teams. Bring the two teams to the front of the classroom and have them face each other. You might want to line up a row of desks on each side to create a “game show” setting. Flip a coin to decide which team will go first.

**Step 3:** In preparation for this activity, write the questions on a flip chart, or simply write them one at a time on the board. Present the first question to Team 1. Inform students there are a certain number of answers to this question. The number of correct answers is

provided on the attached *Questions and Answers* sheet. Instruct Team 1 that they can consult for 2 minutes before they must try and provide as many of the six answers as possible.

**Step 4:** As the students in Team 1 state their answers, write them on the board below the question.

**Step 5:** Team 1 gets a point for every correct answer. If Team 1 was unable to get all six answers referred to on the *Questions and Answers* sheet, then Team 2 gets an opportunity to guess the rest of the answers for that same question. Write Team 2’s answers on the board next to Team 1’s answers. If Team 1 was able to provide all of the correct answers, then Team 2 doesn’t get a chance to answer that question.

**Step 6:** Go over the answers with the class and discuss any answers that neither team could provide.



### Journal Activity

Ask students to make a list of all the things they currently do that create less waste. Then ask them to list other things they could do to further reduce the amount of waste they produce in their daily routines.

**Step 7:** Start the process over again with question #2, but this time, allow Team 2 to answer first. Keep track of the score and work through all of the questions, alternating which team gets to answer first.

After all of the questions have been answered, the team with the most points wins. For extra credit, see if students can name even more correct answers.



### Assessment

1. Ask students what kinds of activities are involved in source reduction.
2. Have students list some things each of us can do to create less waste and reuse more.
3. Ask students to explain why source reduction is important.



### Enrichment

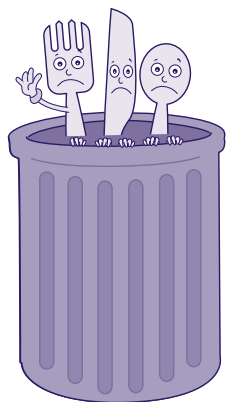
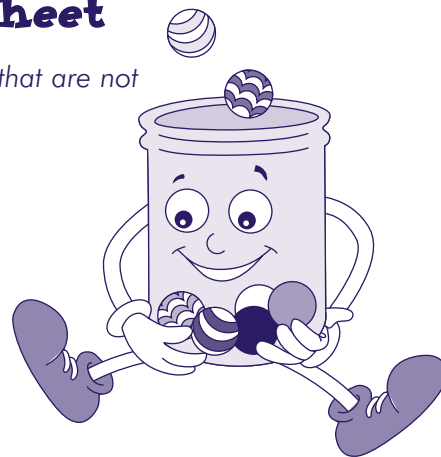
1. Have each team of students devise its own questions and answers for the opposing team, and play again.
2. Organize a clothing drive with the class or the entire school. Donate the used clothing to a local charity or thrift store.

# Source Reduction Roundup Questions and Answers Sheet

(Note: Students should be encouraged to think of additional responses that are not on these lists.)

**What are 6 ways you can reuse a jelly jar?**

1. Pen and pencil holder
2. Cookie cutter
3. Storage container for leftovers
4. Drinking glass
5. Vase for flowers
6. Container for nonfood items such as paper clips, buttons, marbles, or any other small item



**What are 6 commonly used items that are often thrown away but could be reused? (Note that some items have both reusable and disposable parts.)**

1. Cups
2. Eating utensils (e.g., forks, knives, spoons)
3. Plates
4. Cloth Napkins
5. Lunch bags
6. Batteries

**What are 6 benefits of source reduction?**

1. Reduces waste
2. Conserves natural resources
3. Reduces pollution
4. Reduces disposal costs
5. Reduces toxic waste in the waste stream
6. Saves money

**What are 6 ways you and your family can reduce waste?**

1. Use a reusable bag when shopping
2. Bring your lunch in a reusable bag
3. Buy or make your own nontoxic cleaners
4. Make sure you only buy what you need
5. Donate items you don't need anymore instead of throwing them away
6. Use both sides of paper before recycling it

